

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Case File No.: AA-77687

EA No.: AK-040-99-019

TYPE OF  
ACTION: R&PP for Water Treatment Plant

LOCATION: Copper River Meridian, Alaska  
T. 41 S., R. 67 E.,  
Sec. 9,  
U.S. Survey 3824

APPLICANT: City and Borough of Juneau  
155 South Seward Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

PREPARED BY: Dorothy Bonds, Realty Specialist

PREPARING  
OFFICE: Bureau of Land Management  
Anchorage Field Office  
6881 Abbott Loop Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2599

DATE: June 10, 1999

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action:

A Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) application for a lease has been received from The City and Borough of Juneau (C&BJ). The application is for a water treatment plant that was constructed in 1995 to house a chlorine scrubber, a stand by generator, and a chemical (soda ash) feed system. These systems are necessary for the continued production of potable water from the C&BJ's Salmon Creek water source and an adjacent pump station. The building is a public utility building with restricted access. The building has been designed with consideration given to accessibility for persons with disabilities.

### B. Conformance with Land Use Plan:

No land use plan exists for this area. However, this environmental analysis assesses the impacts of the Proposed Action and provides a basis for a decision on the proposal [43 CFR 1610.8(b)(1)].

### C. Relationship To Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans:

The lands are under the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) jurisdiction. The lands are Federal Public Lands as defined in ANILCA Sec 102(3). These lands fall under the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board and the Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of Fish and Wildlife on Federal Public Lands in Alaska.

The BLM has received concurrence for this proposal from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Should the Power Site Classification be removed and said lands be restored to public lands the State top filing will become a valid selection. The lands while in a valid selected status, should not be subject to the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board and subsequent regulations. Selected lands would then become subject to potential conveyance to the State of Alaska.

## II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

### A. Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action is for C&BJ to continue use and maintenance of the water treatment plant to house a chlorine scrubber, a stand by generator, and a chemical (soda ash) feed system that is necessitated by the Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule. These systems are necessary for the continued production of potable water from C&BJ's Salmon Creek water source and an adjacent pump station. The building's footprint is about 8,600+ square feet with overhanging eaves, containing about 0.20 acre of land. The R&PP lease will be issued for a term of 25 years renewable and/or transferable. The legal description of the Water Treatment Plant is within U.S. Survey 3824, Sec. 9, T. 41 S., R. 67 E., Copper River Meridian, Alaska.

The Uniform Fire Code required that a sub-system be available to neutralize a chlorine leak from the chlorine cylinders in the pump station building. The old Water Treatment Plant building had no space available and a separate facility immediately adjacent to the chlorine storage was needed. Before constructing the new Water Treatment Plant the use of the 0.20 acre of land was used for a paved parking and driving area.

- B. No Action Alternative:  
The No Action Alternative is denial of the application.

### III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

- A. Critical Elements:  
The following critical elements of the human environment were not present or would not be affected by the Proposed Action:

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern  
Environmental Justice  
Farm Lands (Prime or Unique)  
Floodplains  
Native American Religious Concerns  
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid  
Water Quality (Drinking/Ground)  
Wetlands/Riparian Zones  
Wild and Scenic Rivers  
Wilderness

1. Air Quality:  
The Proposed Action utilizes chlorine gas as part of the normal operation of the water treatment plant. Chlorine gas is highly toxic to all living organisms.

### IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

- A. Impacts of the Proposed Action:  
1. Critical Elements:  
a. Air Quality:  
An unintentional release could occur due to an accident of mechanical failure of the system. Although numerous safeguards are required by federal and state laws to prevent and warn of an accidental release of chlorine gas, it could be lethal to all life in the near vicinity of the plant.

b. Cultural Resources:

The Proposed Action was completed in 1995. Goldschmidt and Hass (1946:61) cite Salmon Creek as an important source of dog salmon and humpies. There were reports of at least three smokehouses along the creek, but none were standing at the time of their interviews. There are no known cultural resources for the parcel of land according to the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey files or the Sealaska report. The Cultural clearance was done on May 17, 1999.

c. Threatened and Endangered Species:

Threatened and endangered plants and animals and their habitats were evaluated in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Based on available information, the Proposed Action would not have affected any threatened or endangered species or their habitats. Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was considered necessary pursuant to Section 7 of the Act and none was undertaken.

d. Subsistence Uses Under Section 810 of ANILCA:

The Proposed Action does not affect any lands under Federal Subsistence Management (Section 810 ANILCA) and an evaluation of use, distribution, abundance, and access to subsistence resources is not required.

B. Impacts of the No Action Alternative:

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to existing resources.

C. Residual and Cumulative Impacts:

Under the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to existing resources.

D. Mitigation:

Requirements for proper handling of hazardous materials, such as chlorine gas, are referenced in the R&PP lease.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

A. List of Preparers:

Dorothy Bonds - Realty Specialist

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Donna Redding - Archaeologist  
Jeff Denton - Subsistence Coordinator  
Bruce Seppi - Wildlife Biologist  
Debbie Blank - Threatened and/or Endangered Species